cleared by CEA and but for funds constraints and environmental concerns, further exploitation of the potential is possible.

Payment Guaranteed Scheme Electricity Supply to State Electricity Boards

139. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a payment guaranteed scheme for electricity provided to State Electricity Board by independent generating companies in specific projects; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Govt. have formulated a scheme of extending counterguarantee to back-up state govt's guarantee for SEB's payment obligations for the power purchased from the private generating company on the specific request of the state govt. concerned.

(b) The main conditions are:

(i) the state govt. has guaranteed the payment obligations of the SEB to the private generating company and has specifically requested GOI for extending a counter guarantee.

(ii) Further SEB has to open letter of credit/escrow account to which its revenues will be credited to maintain a balance equivalent to one month's billing of the private generating company.

(iii) SEB has to sign an Operational & Financial Action Plan (OFAP) with Power Finance Corporation (PFC).

(iv) The state govt. has to agree that any amount that GOI may have to pay on account of the counter guarantee will be debited by GOI to its account maintained with the RBI.

Electrification of Villages

140. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the number of villages electrified in each state with the assistance of the Rural Electrification Corporation by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, Year-wise and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): The year-wise details of villages electrified in each State with the assistance of Rural Electrification Corporation by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan are given in Annexure I. [*See* Appendix 170, annexure no. 3]

State wise and yearwise details of loan assistance disbursed by the Corporation for rural electrification programme, including village electrification, are given in Annexure II. [*See* Appendix 170, annexure no. 4]

Closure of Bermo Coal Mines of Damodar Valley Corporation

141. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bermo Coal Mines owned by Damodar Valley Corporation are lying closed, if so, since when;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to open the mines;

(c) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time by which they are likely to be opened and the estimated amount to be spent;

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have received any memorandum in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) The Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) never implemented its decision to close